



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 7, 2009**

**CONTACT:** Laura Parker  
California State Library  
(916) 651-6798

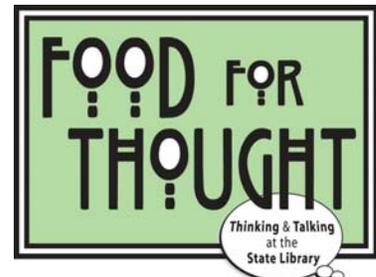
***Food for Thought Honors Audacity, Ingenuity, Courage***

**Sacramento** – The California State Library’s July event in its monthly evening cultural series, ***Food for Thought: Thinking and Talking at the California State Library***, will be held **Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>** at its new venue—the California History Room at 900 N Street, Room 200. This free evening event includes refreshments, a thought-provoking film, and a lively post-film discussion.

In honor of Independence Day, the July screening features *Apollo 13*, an acclaimed testament to human audacity, ingenuity, and courage. We know the outcome of the story, but director Ron Howard engages us in a single-minded, harrowing tale of a space mission that narrowly averted disaster.

In April 1970, nine months after Neil Armstrong stepped lightly onto the lunar surface, Apollo 13’s astronauts rocketed toward the moon at bullet speed in a tin can command module with less computing power than today’s subcompact car. An oxygen tank explosion riveted the world’s attention as drained batteries, dwindling oxygen, and freezing cold imperiled the crew. If they survived the slingshot return around the dark side of the moon, a few degrees of error on reentry into the earth’s atmosphere could end in the spacecraft incinerating or skittering off into space like a stone skipping on a pond. Every shot in this film is new, with the exception of newsreel footage of unfolding events. Veteran actors Tom Hanks, Gary Sinise and Ed Harris give instinctive and assured performances. Told with clarity, technical detail, and immediacy, this powerful story recalls the days when space exploration still shaped our national vision.

The California State Library launched ***Food for Thought*** because it believes that libraries and the free expression of ideas are essential to a healthy democracy. ***Food for Thought*** is a unique monthly venue where film buffs and thinking people talk freely about ideas and issues. By ensuring that California’s people stay intellectually invigorated, the California State Library is taking an active role as a positive shaper of the future of this great state. Its monthly ***Food for Thought*** evenings remind busy Sacramento audiences that we need to slow down enough to consider and discuss issues that have shaped our past and affect our collective future, so we can build a preferred tomorrow.



Join us on July 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:30 pm in our new location--the California History Room, Room 200, on the second floor of Library & Courts Building II, 900 N Street, Sacramento. Doors open at 5:00 pm; the movie shows at 6 pm with time for discussion afterward. Metered street parking is free after 6:00 pm; 8<sup>th</sup> and O light rail access. Seating in this new venue is limited, so attendees must RSVP to Rebecca Fontaine at (916) 653-9942 or [rfontaine@library.ca.gov](mailto:rfontaine@library.ca.gov).

***Food for Thought is made possible by generous donations from the California State Library Foundation***

###